

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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OIC-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FDRE-00 HEW-04
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1673

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ATTENTION IO/DHP, AID/FOA, AID/IIA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNDRO
SUBJECT: UNDRO'S THIRD DONOR CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: ON JULY 3 AND 4, SEVENTEEN NATIONS
ATTENDED THE UNDRO DONOR'S CONFERENCE. THE CLIMATE
WAS POSITIVE AND THE DONORS ATTEMPTED TO PROVIDE
USEFUL GUIDANCE TO UNDRO. THE MAJOR ISSUES RAISED
BY UNDRO WERE:NO CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO
THE UNDRO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SUBACCOUNT; THE NEED
TO TRANSFER IN THE 80-81 BIENNIUM MORE POSITIONS FROM
THE VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND TO THE REGULAR UN BUDGET,
AND THE NEED TO HIRE HIGH QUALITY STAFF. UNDRO ALSO
PRESENTED THE USG-REQUESTED REPORT ON WORLD WIDE
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS NEEDS. IN RESPONSE TO THESE
TOPICS, THE US DEL ANNOUNCED NO CONTRIBUTIONS TO
TRUST FUND, STATING WE WOULD SUPPORT A "SUBSTANTIAL"
NUMBER OF POSITIONS TRANSFERRED TO UN REGULAR BUDGET,
AND POINTED OUT US DID NOT PLAN TO PRESENT THE UNDRO
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS REPORT AT THE UPCOMING ECOSOC
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BUT WOULD CONSIDER AN INITIATIVE AT THE UNGA. THE
MAJOR VIEWS OF OTHER DONORS WERE THAT: UNDRO'S
PERSONNEL SHOULD BE FULLY FUNDED BY THE REGULAR
BUDGET; THE US SHOULD PROCEED SLOWLY ON THE DISASTER
PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVE; AND THAT OTHER DONORS
WOULD NOT HAVE FUNDS AVAILABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO A
TRUST FUND FOR PREPAREDNESS IN THE ORDER OF \$25 MILLION

ON EITHER AN ANNUAL OR ONE-TIME-ONLY BASIS

2. THE MAJOR ISSUES WERE:

A. FUNDING OF POSITIONS: IN THE 80-81 BIENNIUM, UNDRO WILL BE SEEKING TO HAVE THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF POSITIONS POSSIBLE TRANSFERRED FROM FUNDING UNDER THE VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND TO THE UN REGULAR BUDGET. UNDRO OFFERED OPTIONS ON AN ILLUSTRATIVE BASIS FOR THE TRANSFER OF 8, 11, AND 13 POSITIONS. IN RESPONSE TO THIS ISSUE THE UNITED STATES STATED THAT IT WOULD SUPPORT A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF POSITIONS TO BE TRANSFERRED WHICH WOULD MOST PROBABLY BE THE LOW UNDRO OPTION OF 8 POSITIONS. OTHER DONORS, PRIMARILY SWEDEN, UK, NETHERLANDS, AND AUSTRALIA, WANTED FULL TRANSFER TO OCCUR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS ISSUE WILL BE RAISED AT UNGA FIFTH COMMITTEE THIS FALL.

B. USG REQUESTED STUDY ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS:

1) THE USG REQUESTED UNDRO LAST MARCH TO PRODUCE, BEFORE THIS DONOR'S CONFERENCE, A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ON WORLD-WIDE PREPAREDNESS NEEDS WITH THE THOUGHT THAT THIS STUDY WOULD BE USED AS A BASIS FOR A PROPOSAL AT THIS SUMMER'S ECOSOC FOR INCREASED FUNDING OF WORLD-WIDE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ASSISTANCE. UNDRO WAS NOT ABLE TO COMPLETE THE STUDY UNTIL JUNE 25 BECAUSE NEITHER THE DONORS NOR UN AGENCIES PROVIDED THE NECESSARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INFORMATION IN TIME. COPIES OF THE FIRST 72 PAGES OF THIS 200-PAGE REPORT WERE CIRCULATED AT THE MEETING. UNDRO PRESENTED A SUMMARY OF THEIR REPORT AND STATED THEY WERE SURPRISED TO FIND THE NUMBER AND SCOPE OF PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES ALREADY UNDERWAY IN THE UN. THE SWEDES ASKED ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PROPOSAL UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE USG TO CREATE A DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRUST FUND IN UNDP AND THE EXISTING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SUBACCOUNT IN UNDRO. UNDRO EXPLAINED, TO USDEL'S SATISFACTION, THAT THE DIFFERENCE WAS BASED ON THE US PRINCIPLE THAT ALL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE CHanneled THROUGH THE UNDP. A MAJOR POINT MADE BY UNDRO WAS THEIR CONCERN THAT IN THE PERIOD BEFORE SUCH A NEW TRUST FUND WAS CREATED THAT UNDRO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS CONTRIBUTIONS TO ITS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SUBACCOUNT SO THAT DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS WOULD NOT COME TO A STANDSTILL. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TIMING OF THE INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE UNDRO STUDY, THE USDEL STATED THAT THEY WOULD NOT INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION AT THIS ECOSOC BUT WOULD CONSIDER DOING SO AT THE UNGA.

2) IN ITS REPORT ON PREPAREDNESS, UNDRO REFERRED TO A \$25 MILLION ANNUAL PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM; THE DONORS QUESTIONED HOW THIS FIGURE WAS ARRIVED AT. UNDRO STATED THAT THE ORIGINAL PREPAREDNESS TRUST FUND CONCEPT AS WELL AS THE \$25 MILLION FIGURE ORIGINATED IN A US-UNA REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE. THE USG SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED UNDRO TO PREPARE A REPORT WHICH WOULD IN EFFECT HELP DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY AND PRACTICALITY ON COORDINATION AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION (ACC). REGARDING INFORMATION SHARED BETWEEN THE DONORS AND UNDRO, THE USG HAS BEEN THE NATION MOST SUPPORTIVE OF UNDRO AND UNDRO PLANS TO SHARE, AS

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AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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ATTENTION IO/DHP, AID/FOA, AID/IIA

AN EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF INFORMATION IT NEEDS, COPIES OF ALL THE REPORTING CABLES WHICH WERE ROUTED TO UNDRO BY THE USG ON THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE IN GREECE.

3. OVERALL COMMENT: THE UNDRO REPORT ON PREPAREDNESS WAS AN EXCELLENT FIRST STEP BUT NOW NEEDS TO BE REFINED AND MADE MORE REALISTIC. THE DONORS WERE ABLE TO FOCUS ON A MAJOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PROPOSAL AND CLEARLY INDICATED THAT THEY WERE NOT PREPARED TO FUND SUCH A LARGE PROGRAM. THE VIEWS OF THE DONORS ON THIS MATTER WILL OBVIOUSLY AFFECT THE PROGRESS OF THE TRUST FUND PROPOSAL DURING CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION. AS TO

UNDRO'S ORGANIZATION, THE DONORS APPROVED THE RECENT REORGANIZATION WHEREIN THE PREPAREDNESS AND RELIEF DIVISION WERE COMBINED INTO ONE DIVISION WITH GEOGRAPHICAL SUBUNITS PROVIDING BOTH RELIEF AND PREPAREDNESS. UNDRO, DUE IN GREAT PART TO THE EFFORTS OF ANDERSON WHO IS IN CHARGE OF RELIEF AND PREPAREDNESS IS TRYING TO BECOME A MORE DISCIPLINED ORGANIZATION WITH HIGHER QUALITY STAFF. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE DONORS CAN DO MUCH TO SUPPORT UNDRO'S INTERNAL STRENGTHENING, AND ON THIS REGARD THE US DEL FEELS THE DONOR MEETINGS ARE EXTREMELY VALUABLE.

BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT BERKHOL AND HIS DEPUTY, ROSSBORO, PLAYED A MINIMAL ROLE IN THE MEETING WHILE ANDERSON HANDLED THE MAJORITY OF QUESTIONS. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. VANDEN HEUVEL

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